



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

take in the Eastern world is true, but it was not brought about until Pompey's army began its work in the service of the capitalists, and, in the words of the author, it is Pompey who "stands out as the first prominent figure in Roman imperialism."

RALPH VAN DEMAN MAGOFFIN.

Insurance and the State. By W. F. GEPHART. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913. Pp. 228.)

In this book the author attempts to determine, on both practical and theoretical grounds, whether the state should, in the interests of public welfare, monopolize the business of insurance and, if so, to what extent. With this problem in mind, he first discusses the general nature of insurance, and then goes on to describe each of the important varieties, and second, the advantages of state monopoly as compared with private enterprise. In life insurance, the state could not as a result of its monopoly increase the rate of interest or lower the rate of mortality. Any savings over the present system must therefore come from lessening the cost of securing the business or from greater economy in the home-office. The author points out that attempts to secure policy holders without solicitation has been a failure even with judicious advertising. As a result of a comparative study, he shows that there is no indication that large scale operations have any decided advantages in the way of reducing costs. As a result of his investigations and reasoning, Professor Gephart is led to the conclusion that state life insurance may be urged as a method of regulation, but not for the purpose of deriving revenue, or for bettering social conditions.

The problems connected with fire insurance are, the author believes, more complicated. Competitive rates in fire insurance are in the author's judgment impracticable and impossible. As to the case of railway charges, there is a large element of undetermined costs. The premiums obtained from insuring any building may be clear gain to the company. The building upon which it is issued may not be burned. Hence cut-throat competition and the resulting monopoly through the establishment of central rating bureaus. But central rating bureaus do not necessarily establish rates that are either reasonable as a whole or fair as between different classes of property. This situation has led to much unwise legislation. If the business of fire insurance is to remain in the hands of private companies, the author contends, the companies must cease "complaining about the burden of insurance

legislation and begin a campaign of educating the public." The rates must also be made more equitable—either we must have state regulations or state monopoly.

Social insurance in the discussion includes industrial accident insurance, old age and invalidity insurance and unemployment insurance. Insurance, the author contends, has been in the past used chiefly by the propertied classes. This condition is beginning to be changed and must continue to change more rapidly. "The community is beginning to realize that the burdens of a particular class should be borne by the collective strength of the community. The idea that the strong should assist the weak is not only a result of the growth of humanitarian thinking, but it is also a result of a more correct thinking upon the problem of what constitutes a strong nation and an efficient industrial community" (p. 159). Social insurance must therefore be made as cheap as possible and in some cases at least compulsory. On this account, the author is inclined to think that state monopoly has so many advantages that it is likely to be generally adopted. In the United States, however, the system would be difficult of application on account of the state jurisdictions. And even if a state monopoly were adopted, a wide field for coöperation of voluntary mutual insurance societies should be preserved.

Dr. Gephart has presented the arguments for and against a state monopoly of insurance in a clear and forcible manner. Necessarily he does not arrive at any very definite conclusions. The reason is obvious. Our experience is so limited both in time and extent that the question of the relative merits of insurance conducted by private companies or by a state monopoly is as yet an open one.

MORRIS H. ROBINSON.

De la responsabilité civile des personnes publiques et de leurs agents en Angleterre, aux États-Unis et en Allemagne. By ROGER BONNARD. (Paris: Giard et Brière, 1914. Pp. 245.)

The responsibility of the state in municipal law for the wrongful acts of public officers, the remedies of the injured individual against such acts of administration, and the incidence of the loss as between the injured individual, the state, and the wrong-doing officer have been treated more fully by French jurists than by those of any other country. This may be due to the fact that the French council of state by its decisions has worked out such an elaborate system of state responsibility.